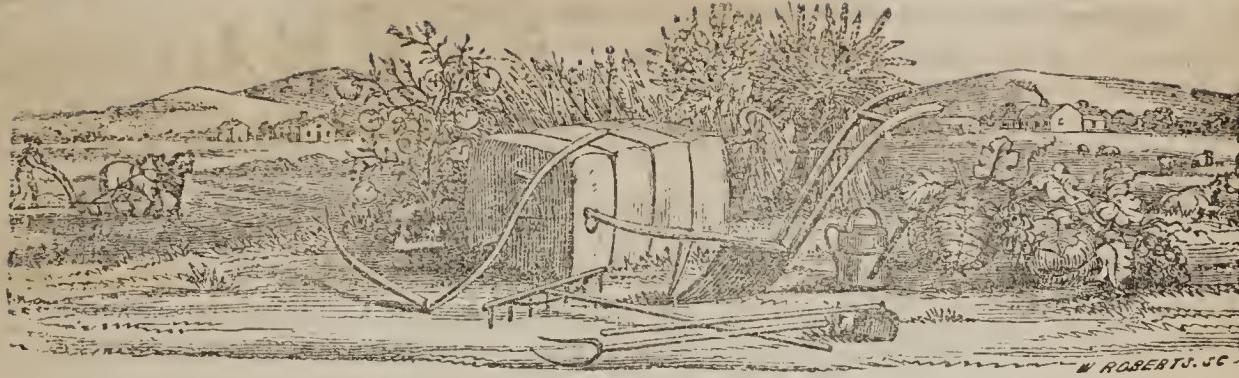


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# THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VIII,

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No. VI.

The Farmer and Planter

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BY GEORGE SEABORN,

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## TERMS:

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## Preparing land for Cotton.

We are not quite sure the following communication from our esteemed correspondent, was intended by him to be published. It, however, contains matter of so much importance to every farmer and planter, that we cannot resist the temptation to publish, hoping it will not be the last from the same source.—ED.

MR. EDITOR:—Although I am much pleased with your "Farmer and Planter," and have occasionally taken much *interest* in its instructive contents, yet I am chargeable with having neglected to manifest that interest and zeal in its support, which its merit and usefulness deserves and should receive at the hands of the planting and farming community in general.—In other words, it is mortifying to say that I have for several years past, neglected to make

the small remittance required of subscribers. I commenced with the 3rd volume (in 1852), and for that and the 4th volume, I remitted the annual dollar *in advance*;\* but my memory does not serve me, in that I have made any payment since. I presume, therefore, that I am in arrears for the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th volumes, which includes the present year. I now enclose \$5, which you will please put to my credit. I find, on examination of the numbers on hand, that many are missing. It is probable they have been regularly sent, but have got mislaid. If you have got any extras on hand, I should like to get them replaced. After further search, I could inform you what numbers are needed. The volumes are well worth preserving, and could be read with advantage, at any time. Although I have for many years past, been a "planter and farmer," yet, for the most part *an unsuccessful one*, laboring under great disadvantages. Worn-out lands and sterility of soil, and that poisoned with what is known by "Joint grass," I have had to combat with; but these disadvantages could, in a great measure, be overcome or counteracted, by proper remedies and strict attention. I have in several instances made the experiment of Kettlewell's deteriorated mixture of guano, with corn and cotton; but found it utterly worthless. Perhaps the "Simon Pure" would have answered a better purpose; but at its present price, it is a folly to expect to use it profitably. As far as my judgment and experience extends, I should say, that the best and most profitable fertilizers are to be manufactured of materials

\* You paid also for the 5th volume.—ED.

which can, by proper management, be gathered, near at home, or on the premises of every farmer. Imported manures will never pay. Some of our planters are now trying salt on their cotton lands. This, no doubt, would answer a good purpose if it cost them nothing but the hauling. Our Sea Island planters are using, to great advantage, salt marsh and mud, but it is contiguous to their fields, and to be obtained with comparatively little more cost than the labor of gathering and hauling. They might, perhaps, find it an advantage, when it can conveniently be done, to irrigate their cotton lands occasionally, with salt water. But upland planters, I should suppose, could never salt their lands without "paying for their whistle." The gathering and hauling of trash from the woods (instead of burning it, as some do), and converting it into a compost, by littering barn yards, stables and cattle pens, or otherwise, is, perhaps, the most economical and profitable way of manuring that can be adopted by the planters in general. I have found it profitable to devote much time to gathering trash from the woods (particularly from swamps, bays and ponds, from which the fire has been kept from a number of years), and hauling it over old worn-out fields on which I purposed planting cotton. A deep furrow is made in the alleys, between the old beds, and these furrows filled with this trash, on which the bed is made to plant the crop. It takes an immense quantity of trash to do this, but the land is evidently much benefited by it, particularly if of a stiff or tenacious texture. The crop planted on this field the next year, would be benefited more than the first, when the trash shall have been more decomposed; and by keeping up this process (if the resource of gathering does not fail), the land will continue to improve, year after year, without rest.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT G. NORTON.

*Robertsville, S. C., 30th April, 1857.*

#### Cotton.

Our much esteemed friend and able correspondent, Dr. Phillips, will, we trust, not cut us for our seeming neglect in thus long delaying the appearance of the following articles, which we thought had been passed to our publisher, to appear in the last number, and did not discover the neglect till too late to get them in. We are not much in favor of encouraging the production of cotton, to the great neglect of other more important crops, and especially at this time when many of our half and half farmers and planters are buying Northern hay in Charleston, and bringing it

300 miles into the interior, to keep their stock alive till winter leaves us, and broomsedge makes its appearance.

But the remarks of our friend will be read with much interest by very many of our cotton making maria planters, now when the article is commanding a fair price with flattering prospects ahead. Such prospects as would stimulate to a ruinous over production another year, was it not for the Providential intercession of frosts and snows up to May, which are nipping us in the bud, and will, in all probability, greatly curtail our over reaching anticipations. Distressing, though it may be, to many to think that their 10 and 12 bales to the hand, will be reduced to half that number, yet we are not prepared to say they have not more reason to be thankful than to repine at it, for in addition of a substitution in part of grain, there is no telling what price a short crop of cotton will bring.

We are by no means disposed to encourage emigration from our State, but were we a cotton planter, we could not confine our self to the 2 and 3 bales production, whilst such lands as described by Dr. P. may be obtained at a low figure, and from which 10 to 12 bales to the hand is no uncommon occurrence.

MR. EDITOR:—When reading what the *London Times*, *Manchester Examiner*, *Wilmer & Smith's Times*, &c., all English journals, have to say about the cotton demand and the vast profits made from its manufacture—when statistics are abundant that prove the world has to depend upon these U. S.—when other countries, instead of increasing supply, as is demand, become beautifully less year by year—when the matter is proven beyond all question, that at fair living rates to America, other growers must almost starve—and when seeing the grand position we of the South occupy, I am constrained to pause with wonder at our indifference. England must have cotton. With it, she can buy bread; without, she is a by-word, a hissing; all the nations of earth would remember her iron heel, and she would be more a matter of scorn than the down-trodden Jews.

Our interest lies in making cotton for her to work up until such time as we can work up a goodly part thereof in our own cotton fields; until such time as we strengthen ourselves against our Northern invaders. We can do it, and yet have labor to work up cotton into all the coarse, heavy fabrics we need.

Mississippi now contains some of the best cotton lands on the broad earth, with a proximity to steam boats, and thereby to New Orleans, not demanding land carriage on an average of, perhaps, 15 miles, and a freight averaging less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to New Orleans.

We will take the river tier of counties, be-

ginning 15 miles North of Vicksburg, where lands will certainly, for 10 or 20 years, average a 500 bale per acre, considering 1500 lbs. seed cotton to make it—after timber is thoroughly deadened. ISSAQUEANA, say 25 townships; WASHINGTON, 35; Bolivar, 22; Koahoma, 17; Tunica, say 20; Desoto, 21. In full, 120 townships, with enough fractions to increase to 130 townships, equal to 2,635,200 acres. Being fully 2 millions of as rich acres as a crow ever flew over. Really it is to me a doubt whether the Union can show such a body of land in the same limits, so fully adapted to cotton. These counties alone can in 1860, ship a million of bales. They will not do so by three-fourths, but not for want of land, its fertility or adaptedness. I hesitate not to say there are negroes enough in North Carolina, South Carolina, upper parts of Georgia and Alabama, in Tennessee and North and East Mississippi (and capital enough too), to make these counties produce a fair crop in 1860, if they were now on the ground, and the crops in those States would be so little reduced, that the world would not find it out. Why, sir, I think I can point to plantations where 2 bales per hand are not made, in your State, and it certainly must take these 2 bales to pay plantation and family expense—what is or can be laid up, I cannot imagine. I know what we can spend out here, and how we get it to spend. Suppose in Washington or Bolivar, it does require double the cost, say 4 bales, deduct this from 8, or 10, or 12 bales, and you will see what the margin would be in an economical money-making family. If I was under 30 years of age, I would willingly agree to give the owner 10 bales per full hand, and run all risk of getting rich on what I would make over, and engage for 10 years. There are many "bug-a-boos" hatched up by men found star-scraping. I have been living, nearly East of Vicksburg, about 12 miles on an air line, for over 26 years, and have not starved on account of bad roads, nor been ate up by mosquitos, nor kilt by cholera or yellow fever; and I believe with all of our indifference to life, pushing; exposure, disease and cholera thrown in, I will compare health statistics with South Carolina. I do not desire to make comparisons, but they have been made by my brothers, natives of South Carolina. We have not accumulated the fortunes here, that perhaps you have, but, dear sir, I ask you to look at our bills, \$1200 to \$2000 for dry goods alone, and every thing else alike. There is no need, it is very true, and where you find here a desire to make a dime and keep it, you may hear the eagle on it scream as loud as

it can anywhere.

There is no shadow of doubt as to what can be made! what is made! I know one, born the same year, and married the same year, and came to this County, and perhaps from the State that I was or did, who with three negro women to begin on in 1829, has many years ago sold his 7 to 10 hundred bales, and bought 10 to 30 thousand dollars worth of negotiable bills per year. I might state many such, but money-making or money-loving was never a matter I was fond to dwell on.

There are hundreds of the energetic in your country, some of them, perhaps, sons of my old school fellows, whom I would like to see turning their energies to the good of our common country, and not rust out, inoulder away at 2 or 3 bales or less, per year.

Any man who has 20 effective hands there; and land he can sell at \$10 or \$20 per acre, can buy here and support himself until his crops here will take him through. On rich land, worth, say even \$10 per acre, 15 or 20 acres per hand, makes a good farm, giving cotton, corn, potatoes and fire wood. With you, how much? Indeed I heard a gentleman there, who owns some 300 or 400 negroes, talk of about 12 to 20 thousand acres. A man there owning 500 acres, worth, cash, \$5000, can buy here 500 acres, one-half cash, the balance in 1, 2 and 3 years, the surplus 2500 can support him first year, and by that time he can work through, and by the 3rd payment, his crops will pay every back debt. It takes energy—we have no use for sleepy men—we want full grown men and women, such as fearing dangers and will encounter any troubles for 2 or 3 years. And by the way, a little rough log cabin, hog and hominy, out door exercise, give us a lease for a longer life; if we do not needlessly expose ourselves. Yours, &c., M. W. PHILIPS.

February 3, 1857.

For the Farmer and Planter,  
Cotton and Combinations.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been somewhat of a busy body for the last twenty years of my life: First dabbling in politics, the military, Railroads; and agriculture. All of that time seeking to be of some service to my country, but failing in almost every thing, I have often asked myself the question, for what purpose did God make me? and at this time am as far as ever from a solution of that important problem.

Sometimes I ventured to write an article for the papers, upon Southern rights, the free school system, direct importations and other questions.

And after taxing my powers for several days, the Editor frequently returned my articles, respectfully declining to publish, or would throw them under his desk among his rubbish, and that was the last of it. And then I would come to the conclusion, that God never intended me for a writer, or that the Editor was stupid, or perhaps very drunk or very sober. And now Mr. Editor, if you feel disposed to make a similar disposition of this, I shall not complain, for I am accustomed to such treatment, and you will have precedent to support you.

But living in retirement and feeling a deep and abiding interest in all which concerns our beloved State, and having no one to talk to, I must at times indulge in a little scribble, and by throwing this under the table, you need not expect to escape a similar visitation; so look out for a Noah flood of ink, though not for the same purpose that the great English Lexicographer is said to have had in view by throwing his ink-stand at the head of his supposed devil, which give rise to the witicism of a German Philosopher, who said that the Doctor did well, for there was nothing so much dreaded by his satanic majesty as the ink-stand.

Regarding your paper as a battery erected upon the hills of Old Pendleton, for the protection of agriculture, I am disposed to shot one of its guns, and aim it in the true direction. Perhaps I shall not be so fortunate as the great Napoleon was in cutting off the legs of his renegade General at the first discharge, because there are too many legs which live, move and fatten upon the labour of the patient, docile and meek cotton planter.

But there are two sides to every question, and likewise many legs among the cotton planters, and if we can get them to fall into line, we may verify the theory of Frederick the Great, who said that the leg services was the main thing to accomplish victory.

It is a common remark that "Cotton is King." French writers tauntingly flout it in the face of England upon the mosquito question, and Abolitionists do the same to Northern Democrats. It is a king of increasing power, and in a few years its fibers will bind the world to keep the peace (towards us at all events). It is the ballance wheel to the machinery of commerce, and has done more towards clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and extending the Gospel, than most men are aware of, certainly more than any other article of commerce, by great odds.

And still those who produce it most abundantly, have generally by combinations, been de-

nied all the advantage, resulting from the ordinary principle of supply and demand.

It must be evident to every observing man that there are more combinations to keep down the price of cotton than any other staple, that its price does not depend so much upon the quantity produced, and the annual increasing demand for it, as upon the number of bales in the hands of the operators at a given time—these speculators have a perfect organization, by the telegraphic wires, they can communicate from one chamber of commerce to another, throughout the Union.

And soon the telegraph placed upon the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, will be enlisted against us lethargick, Rip Vanwinkle, cotton planters.

"Oh, that I could place my tongue in thunder's mouth,  
To wake up the sleeping" Sonn.

Now why permit others to judge for us the extent of our crops and set the price accordingly? why not exercise that power ourselves? some have pronounced it impracticable. But surely the letter of the honorable John McQueen, last winter, from Washington, when he conferred with all the planters from every congressional district in the South, ought to be sufficient to convince the most incredulous of its practicability.

That gentleman is surely entitled to the gratitude of us all for his services, which I hope will be the entering wedge for splitting old combinations, and confer upon the cotton planter, the poor boon of placing a fair price upon the fruit of his labor.

But we will soon find speculators resorting to the same plan for the purpose of deceiving us. Now what is to be done? is, I regard, an important question, and here I solicit the help of all my brethren for solving this problem satisfactorily. I shall say something more with the view of bringing about discussion, than with the hope of devising a perfect plan. Should this article catch the eye of Mr. McQueen, I hope that he will unlimber his guns and fall into battery, fortified as was Jackson against Paekenham. I feel assured of a similar victory for the whole South.

I would respectfully suggest that the members of Congress from the cotton States, organize themselves into an Agricultural Society in the city of Washington, next winter. That then and there they enquire into the prospects of the cotton crop each year, and publish their conclusions in the papers over the signature of the President of said Society, together with all valuable foreign intelligence that they can

obtain upon the amount of cotton on hand in Europe. And that they, upon such information, state what, in their opinion, ought to be a fair price per lb. for the same.

Respectfully, yours, — Job.

**REMARKS.**—Thank you, friend “Job,” go ahead, you are on the right track, and we promise you at least another hearing before throwing you under the desk. If you only succeed in drawing the fire of our esteemed Representative in Congress, Gen. McQueen, who honors us with his patronage, on a matter of so much importance to the whole South, it will be gratifying, not only to ourselves, but doubtless to very many of our readers.—Ed. F. & P.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Cotton and Slavery.

**MR. EDITOR:**—To night I have the New Orleans Weekly Delta, of the 25th, and beg you to read an article by Mr. Dawson, of England, on cotton and slavery; also the Delta’s remarks, also the New York Herald’s remarks in same number.

These articles fall in opportunely for my purpose, and I would like to see them issued in pamphlet form, and put in the hands of every cotton planter and slave owner. They are well worthy of attention, and more, of study and mature reflection. Some few ideas, in my opinion, are wrong; such as cotton being grown within the tropics, and that white men can not make cotton. We know of large yields and premium articles being made North of 35° North latitude, in Tennessee, not far from Memphis; also largely above. The idea I have been laboring at, is not to disturb the slave owner in Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland or Virginia; better make laws forbidding them brought farther South, into the cotton region, but use the cotton growing negroes on the rich lands. This will cause cotton to be reduced to a certain—(almost)—price, and perhaps at 8 cents, which will cause more contention between England and Yankeedom, and we can quietly and silently pursue our own affairs; ere long England will publicly advocate slavery, and then the North with her tariff of protection, will be simply nowhere, though she would not stay there, as she would swear loudest that she had always been in favor of niggery. I feel as certain as I can be of any one thing not proven, that if the slaves in the cotton districts, were put on the choice lands of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, that we could in 10 years drive out all short staple growers, and that we would make as much money at 8 cents, as is now made at 10 cents. In the first place, by

having, say 390,000 operatives upon the above area of country, there is not the vicissitudes of seasons to contend against, as when spread over thousands of miles. Again, rich lands can better stand up against droughts and rainy seasons. Besides, by making 4,000,000 of bales upon 5,000,000 of acres, requiring half a million of “hands,” we would have land for pastures, immensely over the present, when it requires not less than 8 or 9 millions of acres to produce 3,000,000 bales. We may safely state that there are some 9 or 10 hundred thousand persons, white and black, who work in the field, hoeing and plowing for cotton, and none acquainted with the “swamp lands”—“bottoms” of the above States, will deny that seven-tenths would ever fail in the same crops, thus giving, say any how, 200,000 operatives to make meat and corn for our towns, and those planters who think meat raising is too small for a cotton planter. Of course this is Utopian, because the cotton fields of the South belong to sovereigns, and I am sincerely grateful to my Maker, that it is so. Let the thing be foreign from my mind to coerce, let it not be a thought. Yet, when the thing is shown to be practical, of individual advantage, of national gain, I think the energetic should look to it. Besides, why use this, the last argument against the mighty West cholera, yellow fever, mosquitoes, starvation, &c., &c., to the very small end of nothing? ‘Tis “manifest destiny” that Mississippi will, ere many years, be the cotton State, and those who want the planting lands—and as to health, especially for negroes, as good, if not better than the river and creek bottoms in many other portions of our land—had well come out at once. So far as my knowledge extends, negroes are as healthy in the bottom—not every part, I admit—as they were from 1820 to 1830, in Richland District. I mean they are decidedly healthy. There are some objections, I know, and I am as free to state all I know, as to give the fair side. Water is not good—’tis decidedly bad—stock water often very scarce; these can be obviated by cisterns and pools. Roads in the winter—that is simply like fresh salt, impossible; this will be remedied in time, when the country is settled, roads thrown up in some parts, and plank roads in others. As to insects, there are some all about, but we manage to get through; and when the bad weather is over, and cisterns built, we enjoy ourselves so much, we forget all difficulty.

Yours, truly, M. W. PHILLIPS,  
Edwards, Miss., Feb. 3, 1857.

P. S. A friend suggests that it will be

thought I am interested in lands. To this I simply remark, if planters would think me actuated by such motives, I am unfit to read after. I own no interest in any land in Mississippi, that can benefit me a cent, except the tract that I now live on.

M. W. P.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Our Reviewer,

**MR. EDITOR:**—Our failures are sometimes as instructive as our successes, and when we penned that "Pet story of ours, we expected when Broomsedge came to review that article (if he were not prepared to falsify the story), he would have favored us with a satisfactory explanation of the cause of the failure, but we have been disappointed; instead of a learned and scientific explanation, B. takes fire, and from the quantity of smoke emitted, we became alarmed, thinking he might be entirely consumed; but we are truly glad to learn in the sequel, that there is still a "little of him yet left." We hope that little may increase, "that he may live a thousand years and his shadow never grow less," for we intended no disparagement in publishing that story, as B. knows or should believe, no man respects the high position he occupies as an agricultural writer, than we do. His bold flings at humbuggery has done much good, and we have no hesitation in saying, that he will make two blades of grass to grow where none grew at the time he came in possession of his present farm; but as for the two ears of corn, we are not so well satisfied. B. is right in supposing that story was the only one we have told in the last six months; but we will notify him we have three more equally as good, in reserve, to tell when he gets fully over the one already told. B. shrewdly suspects that S. saw some sights as perplexing to his equanimity, as his field of corn, when he was reaping the political field and gathering so sparsely. We frankly confess that in a political point of view, we saw sights that not only perplexed, but mortified us; we saw sights that soon convinced us that with our system of ethics, both moral and political, we had no business on that field, or any chance of success. We were badly beaten, but we came out with clean hands and a conscience void of offence. No person even accused us of meddling with his "*Tent cloth*." But in an agricultural point of view, we saw nothing (everything considered), that perplexed us so much as "That field of corn;" unless, perhaps, it was his nearest neighbor's (our old and much respected friend, Dr. P.), gate. We

have arrived at that time of life, when it is some labor and trouble to get off and on our horse; when we arrived at that gate, we tried many plans to open it without dismounting, but all in vain; we had to dismount, and after we had dismounted, it was with some difficulty we opened it; we then had to lead through, hitch, go back to the outside and fasten it, then climb the fence to get to our horse. We saw much of the practical agricultural operations of our District, and to our judgment, judging from the quality of the crop, the order it was in, &c., &c., Mr. Thomas Kelly, on Pea Ridge, had the best managed farm we saw.

SPARROWGRASS.

Little Branch, May 12th, 1857.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
"Broomsedge."

That field of corn story, "is a capital story, Mr Editor." It is a severe cut—it is a home thrust. Notwithstanding, tho', "Broomsedge" is considered by all readers of the Farmer and Planter in this region the best agricultural writer of the day. He generally indicates the right way, if he should, like the road pointer, not move himself. Although his Essay on Plantation Hygiene, upon the whole is most excellent, he advances some notions that I think are objectionable, or at least calculated to mislead. He says "The grounds immediately about the quarters should be kept clean, and if well set in grass, it would be all the better. Although a plat of ground, dry and elevated as it should be—upon which "the sun's rays play the whole day"—and to which "hogs and poultry have free access," is little likely to be well set in grass; yet as some persons may be induced to encourage its growth where the above circumstances did not obtain, I would presume to advance the opinion, that no vegetables should be allowed to grow immediately about the quarters. From the fact that vegetables radiate caloric (heat), the ground upon which they grow, is more retentive of moisture, thereby favoring decomposition, and producing a chilling atmosphere, both or either of which may produce disease. For authority on this subject your readers, particularly medical men, may consult Prof. John Bell's paper on "Miasmas the alledged cause of Fevers," and Well's on Dew." Again he says, "The cabbins should be set well off the ground, so that the rain can have a clear sweep at cleaning out now and then." If the Col.'s views were fully carried out, I willingly admit that there might be no diliterious result in either case; but

as they are calculated to mislead, or if not fully carried out, bad consequences would result, I would enter a *caution* to both planter. I feel very certain—I am confident, that I have traced the cause of Typhoid Fever, to the existence of moisture, produced by rain water running under cabins. To be sure it had not the free sweep the Col. recommends. I would say never allow the existence of moisture about, and particularly under dwellings, from any avoidable cause. Yours, &c.,

YORK.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
Manuring for Corn.

The following article should have appeared earlier in the year, but was not received in time even for our May number—ED. F. & P.

It is perfectly useless to piddle at a business. If you attempt to manure, begin with energy, and do the work in earnest. To tell of measuring the woods mould by the bushel, is playing with an idea. Mr. Plowstock inquires the best way to apply manure, whether in the drill or broadcast.

It does seem that any practical farmer could decide that question at once. And the best way must depend upon the proportion of manure, which he can afford to apply to the acre of land.

If he has a good farmer's measure for manure, (i. e.) a waggon five inches wide on the tread, that will not sink into the land when a load is put on it,\* and four strong oxen to pull it, then he may put twenty loads of barn-yard manure in the drill, per acre, or ten of good stable manure. But have the furrows deep and wide, and if the subsoil is clay, break it with one of Dr. Broyles' Subsoil Plows, or some other plow, in the bottom of the furrow.

But if our friend Plowstock has two hundred loads of manure to put on five acres of land, then apply it broadcast; after the land is well broke, spread it regularly on one side of the field, (*a*) and plow the land into beds, four feet from centre to centre, and plant in drills by opening the bed deep with a long plow.

Turn the manure under in making the beds, within twelve hours after it is scattered, on it

\*The waggon load is the common way of telling the quantity, though I think by the ton would be better understood, as manures vary in weight, and waggons vary in size; my waggon will carry two tons.

I use an oblique pointed twisting shovel, (*b*) 4 inches across the point, which falls back at an angle of 45 degrees, and when sharp will cut small bushes off easily. They are laid with blister steel, and well tempered, and the cheapest plow ever used.

(*a*) "On one side of the field, we don't understand this. Is it to begin on one side of the field?"—ED.

(*b*) Simply a jack plow.—ED.

will loose a great deal of its strength (*c*). This is a maxim as old as Dryden, who said, "never haul out more manure in the day, than you can cover in the evening."

You may put fresh stable manure in the drill in January, and cover it with one good furrow, and let it remain until the last of March, then bed out the rows and plant the corn, and it will never fire if well cultivated.

I have noticed some farmers who will haul out four or five hundred loads of manure on a common waggon in the winter, when the land is wet, to save time, and have it dotted over fifty or sixty acres of land, in little piles, for two months, when half to one third of its strength would be exhale by the sun, and blown away by the winds. The land cut into gullies a foot or more deep, and the mules chafed and worn down as much as a winter's hauling to market would do, and one good mule will cost as much as four oxen. A plenty of good hay, and three pecks of meal per day, will keep a team of oxen in good work order through the winter. They however must be stabled as well as mules, have large racks and troughs. Their meal must be mixed with some cut food to prevent waste.

There is no difficulty in applying manure, but the great trouble is, to make and save it properly.

Yours, TOM SINGLETREE,  
Earlsville, S. C. April 6th, 1857.

(*c*) The loss by evaporation from manure, especially when spread thinly over the land, is more imaginary than real; when left in heaps so as to cause it to heat and undergo decomposition, then some of the gases may be driven off, but if spread thinly, unless washed off by heavy rains, there is but little danger of loss.—ED.

Agricultural College.

In the March No. of the Farmer and Planter we published an address "To the Citizens of South Carolina," on the subject of an Agricultural College, from the pen of our esteemed friend SAM'L R. BLACK, which we hoped would attract the attention of the friends and advocates of the Agricultural interests of our State and elicit discussion on a matter of vital importance to that most respectable and much neglected class. But our friend has failed to draw the fire except of a solitary gun, the contents of which were fired over his head from our May No.—the object of which seems to have been to "bring him to," instead of encouraging him to proceed on his most praise-worthy but perilous mission. We have for many years past been in favor of, and most anxious for the

establishment of an institute separate and distinct from the South Carolina College, for the training and education of the agricultural class of our State. The "Labor School" scheme has been tried and abandoned as impracticable in the South. Whether the plan proposed by M. B., the outlines of which are only given in the article above alluded to, is a feasible one, is somewhat problematical. But he has essayed to lay his foundation—let others view it, examine it closely, and if found deficient, correct it, tear it up and lay a better—otherwise, *build on it*.

We find in the April number of the *Southern Planter*, a "Plan of Instruction in the Principal and Auxiliary Departments of the School of Agriculture at the University of Virginia," the bare reading of which afforded us pleasure. We would above all things, in our devotion to the cause, be most delighted to see such a system in full operation in our own State.

The author of the plan is, undoubtedly, a master workman, of whom the Editor of the *Planter* says:

"We are not permitted to give the name of the author; but we know him well, and can assure our readers that he is a gentleman of fine intellect, thoroughly trained and highly cultivated; himself an adept in what he here prescribes; and of an age and judgment too mature and ripe to act under the impulses of mere enthusiasm."

But for its great length, we would be pleased to give the synopsis of the writer in full, but must limit our extracts to his concluding remarks on the "Farm for Demonstration or Instruction."

#### FARM FOR DEMONSTRATION OR INSTRUCTION.

It has been conceded in this paper, that by means of 'Models,' 'Plates,' and 'Specimens,' the school of Agriculture may attain to eminent usefulness. Yet it is probable that its full capacity for good, can be developed only by 'Demonstrations, on a Farm.'

The objects of such an Appendage to a school of 'Theory and Practice,' seem to be, to illustrate in a given climate and soil, the best methods of Husbandry;—to show the management of Farm in the details, and in the whole: to teach, by the pupil's 'taking hold' with his own hands, the arts of draining, plowing, sowing, harrowing, cultivating, reaping, stacking, threshing, and preparing the products, for market: to explain the management and treatment of all livestock on the place, whether designed for food or labour or other products: to teach the duties of shepherds and graziers: the whole management of the stall and dairy: the duties of an 'overseer' or 'steward of the Farm'; the practical keeping of Farm accounts, and daily Records.

This excludes what is technically termed an 'Experimental Farm,' as it is defined by one of

the most approved writers on Practical Agriculture: a farm, "the sole object of which is, to become acquainted with the best properties of plants and animals by experiment, and to ascertain whether or not those objects are worthy to be introduced into an ordinary farm:—on which it would, therefore, be obviously needless to follow the ordinary modes of cultivating the ordinary plants and of rearing the ordinary animals:—on which on the contrary, new plants," (and we must add) various, and even inferior breeds of animals, "extraordinary modes of cultivating and rearing, are to be tried, with the usual risk of failure."\*

A farm and a system like this, confounds in its design, the original investigator of truth, with the student of truths or laws already ascertained. It is a laboratory where materials and methods are brought into 'relation' with each other with risks of mistake, failure, explosion and confusion. It is a theatre for the ready made philosopher, but not for the uninitiated learner.

We cannot doubt, however, that a certain kind of 'experimenting' may be highly useful, yea, is necessary—that which exhibits to the pupil's eye various methods of planting and cultivating numerous varieties of vegetable growth;—various methods of breeding, rearing, feeding, fattening several varieties of each kind of useful stock; multiplied operations, machines, manures and soils; but with the special rule or condition, that the component parts of the whole system shall be approved and not vicious: and that, with each fact submitted to observation before the learner, there shall be given such instruction as will enable him to comprehend clearly, the reasons or principles.

It would cost too much of the material of 'Agricultural Economy'—of Land, Labour, Livestock, circulating capital, to institute, for the instruction of a class, a series of experiments which are, by supposition, to result in failures of crop, injury to the soil, and the corrupting of breeds.

We may exhibit for instruction, examples of defective design, bad execution, and untoward results, when they occur spontaneously or accidentally, but it will scarcely be wise to create disorders that we may heal them, nor subject vegetable and animal life to continual torture at the probable expense of capital and sound knowledge.

Our plan will likewise exclude the so-called 'Model Farm,' in proposing that the work shall be executed by regular labourers, instead of the Pupils. Except this difference and certain defects which may be expected to arise from ordinary causes of failure, want of skill in the superintending head, or casualties of weather or pests, the 'Farm' here contemplated will be 'Model'; but its whole design is best conveyed in the title,

#### FARM FOR DEMONSTRATION OR INSTRUCTION.\*

At present, we may be content with that measure of actual exercise on the "Farm," which

\* "Stephen's Farmer's Guide," p. 124.

corresponds with evolution in the practice of a Gymnasium, or of a military Academy.

Fortunately in one aspect, a majority of those who follow the instructions of the school, will probably be prospective land-owners. Their province will be to direct, not to execute, and while they can never handle a hoe, a plow, or an axe, like a man who has used them habitually, yet they may learn pretty well, the right mode, by having seen them well used.

There is a class of young men, who, it is hoped, would not fail to avail themselves of this propitious opportunity to be educated for the business of Overseers or Farm Stewards. Their independence and good sense would be eminently illustrated if they would perform labor on the farm, and receive such credits for it in allowance, or in money, as would partly defray the expenses of education.

In further detail of this organization we may provide that, having procured a body of land of suitable quality, quantity and location, the professor of agriculture shall, as principal or quasi-proprietor, have control of the whole "Farm," subject only to the constituting authorities: determining the labour to be applied, systems of improvement, methods of operation, selecting machinery, implements, stock, seeds, fruits; regulating processes of breeding, cross breeding, rearing, feeding, fattening, directing manufactures which are practicable, in wood, iron, flax, cotton: of butter, cheese, &c.

To give fuller efficiency to this co-ordinate department, it will be necessary to have an agent whose function shall be that of an "attendant," or "practical assistant," under the principal, to superintend, at all times the business of the "Farm," the work, the stock, &c.; to prepare, according to a memorandum furnished him by the professor, materials and subjects for instruction, and to assist in manipulations before the class.

Next, dividing the class into sections of 10 or 12, composed partly of Juniors and partly of Seniors, the professor will, upon the ground, carry the sections severally and successfully, through the "Demonstrations" and "Exercises" adverted to. The days for these duties will be appointed by the Principal, having due reference to the seasons when particular processes are going on.

Classes of two, (one a senior, the other a junior), may be detailed in succession, to inspect, during a period of two weeks, each, the whole management of the "Farm;" to keep, according to a prescribed method, a daily account of receipts and expenditures: a daily tabulated record of farm operations, facts, and results; of Thermometric, Barometric and other phenomena of the Air. Of this record, the section may preface, at the end of its term, a Resume, reciting in proper detail, and with judicious generalization, the leading facts. They may spread this, (after being reviewed and approved as a school exercise by the professor) upon the pages of a Book adapted to preserve it as a permanent historical record.

Whatever of enthusiasm or of hope may have been warmed into existence by the contempla-

tion of these details, we are sensibly chilled by the consciousness that their consummation is remote. Means are wanting, and we are to throw ourselves for their supply upon the Legislature and upon the voluntary contributions of which we have the conspicuous example already referred to.

From the Spartanburg Express.  
Our Farmers and their Homes.

We have often wondered why it is our farmers pay so little attention to providing themselves with the comforts and pleasures with which they could so easily surround their homes. Our climate is a genial one, producing, with the proper care, a great number of the most valuable fruits, and favorable to the cultivation of an endless variety of flowers. Many sections of our district are eminently suited for the grazing and raising of fine herds, if our farmers would only give their attention to it, or bestow a little labor in preparing with proper grasses their pastures. And yet many of their homes are wanting in, or entirely destitute of most of the comforts these things afford. Why not raise your own fruits, apples, peaches, pears, grapes, apricots, strawberries, &c., which are among the best fruits known to the world? You can, with a little care, have all these things in abundance, and the pleasure it will afford yourself and family, and the social enjoyment you shall have with the friends you shall invite to share them with you, will amply repay all the expense and trouble of their cultivation. Why not beautify your homes with flowers? They will diffuse a sweet atmosphere around it, make it an inviting home to you in your hours of leisure and weariness; give it a doubly dear place in your memory. The cultivation will afford a healthful and pleasant pastime for your wife, keep alive the youthful and tender feelings of her heart, and relieve the vexations that so often beset her domestic life, and of which you know little how to sympathize. They will afford pleasure to your children, and attach them to home. They will exercise a gentle and wholesome influence upon their minds and their hearts, teaching them by their beauty and their frailty, more impressive lessons of wisdom than are to be learned from books. The influence of even inanimate objects over the mind, especially the youthful mind, are not often rightly estimated. The mind so susceptible of impressions, takes shape from everything with which it comes in contact. If the same objects, or the same class of objects continually recur, and are again and again made the subject of thought, they at length give shape and direction to the mind. The Indian reared in the wilds of the forest, can never be anything else than a savage.

Parents cannot do too much to make home pleasant to their children. It should be a place "beloved by them o'er all the world beside," full of pleasant associations that can never be forgotten. What a safe-guard is such a home, from the temptations of the world; what an influence for good does it not hold over the mind. We have no doubt that much of the emigr.

tion from our midst to find a home in the far West, might be prevented by attaching children to their homes, by surrounding it with such objects as the mind delights to dwell upon, and with which it forms the most lasting associations. The emigrant now, in leaving his hastily exhausted lands, his tottering dwelling and neglected grounds, whose only adornments consist, probably of a chicken coop on one side, and a log cornerib or pigsty on the other, has no home-ties to break, has nothing to weep over, has nothing to look back upon,

But let our farmers once improve their lands, sow green pastures for their cattle, build neat and handsome cottages, adorn their ground with shade trees and flower gardens, surround themselves with the comforts that are within their reach, and they will forget the West with its prairies and fertile valleys, and find that they can live as happily, and prosperously too perhaps, here, as any place upon the inhabitable globe.

Money expended in this way is not thrown away, regarding it strictly in a pecuniary point of view it is simply adding, for every dollar thus expended, a dollar to the value of your property. We doubt whether many of you could fall upon a more effectual plan, to enhance the price of your real estate. But even if it should cause a small expenditure, which shall bring you no return in silver and gold. Why toil all your days undersuch privations, to leave at last, your worn out fields, and your bleak and desolate mansions, destitute of all those pleasing objects around which the affections may cling, to children, who, as soon as they have seen you decently interred, and shed a last tear over your grave, will put them under the auctioneer's hammer, and take up their match with that constantly increasing throng, before whom the last representative of the red man will soon be forced to find a grave in the bosom of the Pacific.

#### Health of Animals.

To keep animals in health is more important than to cure sick ones, and for this purpose a few leading rules should be always observed and which cannot be out of place here.

1. Always feed regularly as to time and quantity. Many animals are made sick by starving at one time, and stuffing at another. Especially, never over feed.

2. The same rule must be observed with watering—and let the water be pure.

3. Never overwork an animal—regular and moderate exercise will enable a working animal to do more the year through, by an odds, than any hurried driving at one time, and resting and overfeeding at another—and be infinitely less liable to disease.

4. Allow a regular supply of salt—it is useful; but an observance of the preceding rules without salt, will be incomparably better than their infraction with it.

5. Never feed musty or bad food. If musty fodder must be used, pass it through a rapid cutter, and moisten, salt, and meal it.

6. Avoid unwholesome and poisonous plants in pastures and in hay.

7. All changes of food must be gradual. If from hay to grass, let the grazing be but one hour the first day, two hours the next, three the next, &c. The same caution must be carefully observed in beginning to feed

with roots, grain, &c.

8. Be careful that animals always have sufficient exercise, and plenty of pure, fresh air. Stables must be well ventilated.

9. Lastly, and by no means least, let strict cleanliness be observed. All animals, even pigs, kept clean and curried, are found to maintain their flesh better, or fatten faster, than when dirty and neglected—and cleanliness is more important to health than for flesh.

*Potato Planting.*—Mr. Brown of Long Island, has recently published an interesting experiment touching the butt ends and seed ends of potatoes. In one row with each variety, he planted only the seed ends of the potato; in the other, the opposite, or butt ends. These were the pinkeyes and the peach blows. The yield was as follows. Pink-eyes—butt ends 217 pounds; seed ends, 170 pounds. Peach blows—butt ends, 225 lbs.; seed ends, 179 pounds.

The potatoes raised from the butt ends were much larger than those from the seed ends, and appeared to be from a week to ten days earlier. Had the whole field been planted with butt ends the yield would have been more than five hundred bushels to the acre.

*New England Farmer.*

*Hot Water for plants.*—A correspondent to the Boston Cultivator, writing on the subject of house plants, says: "The way to have healthy plants is to shorten all straggling growth, and remove every leaf and flower as the least symptom of decay is perceptible, washing them occasionally with very warm water from the fine nose of a watering-pot held high above them, thus giving them benefit of a warm shower at any time or place. But the thing of all others the most important, is to water them with hot water at all times; yes, hot to the touch, even beyond what is supposed to be prudent, until after experiment—and it is only necessary to watch the result on the health and vigor of the plants, especially when in bloom, to be convinced of the value of this 'grand specific.' The writer says that he has fuchsias now in bloom, mere cuttings about six inches in height, not one failing out of seven or more cuttings planted in a single pot and watered with hot water."

*Wheat as a Substitute for Coffee.*—Will you allow me to state through the columns of your paper, that wheat makes excellent coffee? It can be had for three cents per pound, while imported coffee is sixteen. Mixed, one half wheat, the greatest lover of coffee would not discover the difference. We have often used clear wheat in our family, and think it excellent. It is certainly to be preferred to the extracts so commonly used; and is also useful for persons whose health will not allow them to use the other coffee. It should be well dried and roasted, or it will boil thick like starch.

M. D.

*Cure for Felons on the Fingers.*—The Scientific American says:

The past year we have known the spinal marrow of an ox or cow, applied to three different persons with the most satisfactory results, in relieving pain and securing cures of their felonies. The spinal marrow should be applied fresh every four hours for two days.

**Report of the Laurens Agricultural Society.  
CHARACTERISTICS OF OVERSEERS.**

BY DR. J. A. METTS.

Having been appointed to report to the Society, on the duties of overseers, I proceed to do so.—Planting is so much dependant on the capacity and action of the overseer or agent of the planter, that the topic would expand over a wide range, to treat it fully.

The day is past when the overseer should only be regarded for the energy with which he can accomplish manual labor, with a gang of hands. He should be intelligent and well informed upon all the routine of plantation duties; in fact, should be fully able to take charge of every department of the business upon the plantation on which his services are employed. He should be sober, industrious, and disposed to listen fully to the orders and suggestions of his employer. Whenever the employer gives an order, he should obey it, even if it did not agree with his own notions.

Overseers, very often set up for themselves on plantations, and it is all "my crop," "my mules," "my stock," "my hands" with them, when out of sight of their employers. When we hear such expressions fall from the lips of an overseer, we invariably think that it is time such men should become proprietors, and give up the business of overseeing.

We do not object to a just pride and interest being felt by the overseer, in all things, but he should confine himself to the legitimate sphere of his duties. To enumerate them will perhaps best subserve the purposes of this report.

We will commence by remarking that the overseer should have a correct knowledge of the character, constitutional capacity, habits, and general disposition of every slave he has under his charge. He should be able to tell how much labor he could perform with his gang, on any given day, or in any given time. He should know every animal on the place—the horses and mules, in the same manner as the negroes, and the other stock—by sight. He should keep a regular inventory of every cow, sheep and hog on the place, and those should be counted every week, by him. Every tool and implement, every trace, pair of hames, sets of harness, in like manner should be entered in his list, and he should see, at stated intervals, whether any are missing. Waggon, carts, and plows; plow moulds, axes, spades, and shovels, all should be put down on the list, and kept in their places, and in good repair. This is legitimately the overseers duties, and he is not perfect in his calling, until he does these things properly and correctly. He should be able to keep all the accounts, as well as the sales of domestic produce of the plantation, as of the products of the different fields. He should recollect that his time is not his own, but his employer's, and that it should not be spent in riding about to public gatherings, when he has no particular business at such places. To the absence of overseers from their hands, may be attributed a great deal of the failure on plantations. The time which is idled away by the

hands, all the bad work which is done in his absence, can never be remedied by pushing them on after he returns; he should remember that every day has its own tasks to perform. It is important that the overseer should be with the hands all the time they are at labor. He is the proper person to take in charge the young negroes, and teach them the methods of labor and the proper performance of their tasks. If they are properly trained, they will always be good hands, and if they are badly trained, they will always be indifferent hands. The overseer should attend also, and with great strictness, to the moral deportment and habits of cleanliness upon the plantation.—Health and cleanliness go hand in hand, and filth and disease in like manner are linked together.

Whenever the overseers of the land improve and fit themselves by education and information, to properly discharge all these duties, they will not be regarded as they usually are by their employers, as mere agents to do that work which they do not wish to do themselves. They control the property of so many people under our planting system, that it is highly requisite that they should be enlightened and well informed. Whenever they are thus taught, it is right and proper they should be made companions of by their employers—for I would have none that I could not fellowship with.

By this course they will soon become gentlemen of good habits, and their tone of character vastly improved in every essential particular.

[*Laurensville Herald,*]

**The Duties of an Overseer.**

As I have been working in the harness as an overseer for some time, and as I anticipate quitting the profession for the purpose of going to Kansas to fight the infernal Abolitionists, if necessary, and if not, to try something that is more profitable than overseeing, I have concluded to give my views to my brother overseers upon the duties of an overseer, which they can take for what they are worth.

It is here supposed that the overseer is not immediately under his employer's eye, but is left for days or weeks, and perhaps months, to the exercise of his own judgment in the management of the plantation. To him we would say, bear in mind that you have engaged for a stated sum of money, to devote your time and energies for an entire year to one object, to carry out the orders of your employer strictly and cheerfully, and to the best of your ability, and in all things to study his interest. This requires something more than your mere presence upon the plantation, and that at such times as suits your own pleasure and convenience.—On entering upon your duties inform yourself thoroughly of the condition of the plantation, negroes, stock, implements, &c., learn the views of your employer as to the general course of management he wishes pursued, and make up your mind to carry out those views fully as far as in your power. If any objections occur to you, state them distinctly, that they may be yielded to or overcome. Endeavor to take the same interest in everything upon the place as

if it were all your own, having been entrusted to you by another. Unless you feel thus, it is impossible that you can do your employer justice.

The health of the negroes under your charge is an important matter. Much of the usual sickness among them is the result of carelessness and mismanagement. Over worked or badly-cooked food, and night rambles, are all fruitful causes of disease. Well-cooked food, including plenty of vegetables, should be supplied to them at regular hours; that the sick be cheered and encouraged, and some extra comforts allowed them, and the convalescent not exposed; that pregnant women be particularly cared for, and in a great measure exempted from labor, and certainly from exposure and undue exertion for some time before confinement; and that while nursing they be kept as near the nursery as possible, but at no time allowed to suckle their children when overheated; that the infant be nursed three times during the day, in addition to the morning and evening, until eight months old, when twice a day suffice; that no whiskey be allowed upon the place at any time, or under any circumstances; but that they have whilst heated and at work plenty of good cool water; that care may be taken to prevent the hands from carrying their baskets full of cotton on their heads—a most injurious practice—and, in short, by using such means for their comfort as every judicious, humane man will readily think of, you will find the amount of sickness greatly diminished.

Next to the negroes, the stock on the place will require your constant attention. It is a part of the duty in which overseers are generally most careless. The horse and mule stock are first in importance; unless these are kept in good order, it is impossible that the work can go on smoothly, or your crop be properly tended. Put your stables and lot in good order, and keep them under lock, and have them littered and cleaned out at proper intervals; to attend to sick or maimed animals—to see that the gears are always hung in their proper place, kept in good order, and so on. It is an easy matter to keep horses or mules fat with a full and open corn-crib, and abundance of fodder; that overseer shows his good management, who can keep his teams fat at the least expense of corn and fodder. Hogs are generally sadly mismanaged. Too many are kept and kept badly. One good brood sow for every five hands on a place is amply sufficient; indeed, more pork will be cured from these than from a greater number. The implements and tools require a good deal of looking after. By keeping a memorandum of distribution of any set of tools, they will be much more likely to be forthcoming at the end of each month. Axes, hoes and other small tools, of which every hand has his own, should have his number marked upon it with a steel punch. The strict enforcement of one single rule will keep everything straight—"have a place for everything, and see that everything is in its place."

Of the provision crops there is most commonly enough made upon most plantations for their own supply. Rarely, however, is it sav-

ed without great and inexcusable waste, and fed out without still greater. And this, to their lasting shame be it said is too often the case to a disgraceful extent, when an overseer feels satisfied that he will not remain another year upon the place. His conduct should be the very opposite of this.

It is indispensable that you exercise judgment and consideration in the management of the negroes under your charge. Be firm, and at the same time gentle, in your control. Never display yourself before them in a passion; and even in inflicting the severest punishment, do so in a mild, cool manner, and it will produce a tenfold effect. When you find it necessary to use the whip (and desirable as it would be to dispense with it entirely, it is necessary at times,) apply it slowly and deliberately, and to the extent you are determined in your own mind to be needful before you begin. The indiscriminate, constant and excessive use of the whip is altogether unnecessary and inexcusable. When it can be done without a too great loss of time, the stocks offer a means of punishment greatly to be preferred. Never threaten a negro, but if you have occasion to punish, do it at once, or say nothing until ready to do so. A violent and passionate threat will often seare the best disposed negro to the woods. Always keep your word with them in punishments as well as rewards. Never forgive that in one that you would punish in another, but treat all alike, showing no favoriteism. Never be induced by a course of good behavior on the part of the negroes to relax the strictness of your discipline; but when you have, by judicious management, brought them to that state, keep them so by the same means. The only way to keep a negro honest is not to trust him. This seems a harsh assertion but it is unfortunately too true.

In conclusion, bear in mind that a fine crop consists, first, in an increase of the number, and a marked improvement in the condition and value of the negroes; second, an abundance of provision of all sorts for man and beast, carefully housed; third, both summer and winter clothing made at home, also leather tanned, and shoes and harness made, when practicable; fourth, an improvement in the productive qualities of the land, and in the general condition of the plantation; fifth, the team and stock generally, with the farming implements and buildings in fine order at the close of the year; and young hogs more than enough for next year's killing; then, as heavy a crop of cotton as could possibly be made under the circumstances, sent to market in good season, and of prime quality.

The time has passed when the overseer was valued solely for the number of bales of cotton he had made, without reference to his other qualifications.

[Correspondent Edgefield Advertiser.]

To Clean Kid Gloves.—Wash them in a mixture of equal quantities of ammonia and alcohol. Then rub them dry. The above solution will also remove staining and grease from silk and cloth.

A Suggestion.

COL. GAGE:—We write to you as the Secretary of the State Agricultural Society. We have seen your Premium List, and do not object to it, but would suggest an addition. We can very easily see how a planter can exhibit at the Fair one horse or mule, or any other one thing in very fine order and keeping, by making that one a nabob, and every thing else on his place paupers, and thus carry off a premium. It is necessarily so, and cannot be helped if we have any Fair at all. We would suggest for your consideration, in addition to the list you have sent, that the best managed and most productive plantation in the State, should receive a premium and a good one. Although the plantation itself could not be exhibited at the Fair, yet a likeness of it could be carried there in this way: First, let the District Societies, or if there be no District Society, the planters can call a meeting on some public day, and appoint a Committee of three men to visit the plantations in their District which have entered for the premium, report the finest and best managed plantation in their District, to a Committee of three or five persons, to be appointed by the President of the State Society or the Executive Committee, which Committee could visit the premium plantation in each District reported to them by the District Committees, and report at the Fair the best managed in the State.

The Committees should take into consideration the natural and improved fertility of the place, which could be very easily done by simply visiting one or two adjoining plantations. They should enquire the number of hands employed, the number of acres planted in the different kinds of produce, the mode of cultivation, the proportion of plows and hoes, examine the farming implements, the condition of the negroes, horses, mules, hogs, cattle and other stock on the place, the style and location of the dwelling, of the negro houses, stables and barn, and all other houses, noticing their conveniences. They should enquire into every thing and look into every thing, particularly the corn-crib and meat-house. Enquire how much and what is made or sent to market from the place. The Committee should hand in a detailed statement, to be read at the Fair. We think it would be of more real benefit to the planters of the State, than all the exhibitions and prize essays put together, for we should then have something real, practical and tangible. It would be a prize essay based upon actual facts, without any speculations or

experiments. If one man could make his place profitable with five or ten hands, the same system would do for any other number of hands.

We think the Committees should make their visits in the crop growing season. If you think the suggestion a good one, it can be acted upon this season, and it will be worth the more, for then plantations will not be fitted up for the occasion, but they will be reported as they are habitually managed. We do not think there would be any difficulty in getting a Committee to serve, as most any one would like the opportunity of visiting the best managed plantations in the State.

Your most obedient,

The foregoing article, Mr. EDITOR, under the title of a Suggestion, was received by the Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, a few days since—post marked Charleston—and as the writer took the pains to cut out his signature before sending it to me, I take this method as the only available one of replying to his Suggestion.

The Executive Committee have the following objects in view: The improvement of plantation husbandry, the advancement of every branch, lineal and collateral, of agriculture, the diffusion of all knowledge tending to the development of our State's resources, and the moulding into one homogeneous mass all the interests and the feelings of the planter and farmer. Upon this *union* depends our *strength* and *our safety*, both progressively and politically. The Executive Committee will always be pleased to receive suggestions offered in the spirit of the above. The Committee could not be expected to please every body, or to frame a Premium List unobjectionable. It cannot work to suit particular cases, but must deal in generals, and endeavor to embrace as much as possible the leading wants of the people, to seize upon the most attractive points, as well as to draw from concealment whatever may merit reward. The Executive Committee belong to the State Agricultural Society, and only desire to carry out its views, and if gentlemen will lay their suggestions, or make their complaints, or offer improvements, or point out errors of omission or commission, to the Committee, they will be respectfully considered and acted upon. But the Executive Committee cannot be expected to hunt up in the columns of the newspapers every thing that a man thinks proper to grumble at the Committee about.—Hunting up troubles is but a poor business—

they are often enough unbidden guests.

The "Suggestion" of our correspondent, if it could be carried out, would be admirable—but there is the rub. Agriculturists have very little "esprit de corps," of all people they are the hardest to rouse up and to keep up.

1st. It would be no easy matter to get a Committee willing to make the necessary examination.

2nd. It would be still more difficult to find one that would agree on what was the test of the best management, &c.

3rd. Suppose ten Districts in the State should report in favor of Premium Farms, how could any Committee at the Agricultural Fair at Columbia, decide upon the merits of the different candidates for the post of honor. Would it not prove an apple of discord?

It may be true that premiums to "Nabob" horses, mules, hogs, cattle, essays, &c., will not be productive of such results as we hope for, but it is the best that can be done under the circumstances. It is the only thing that will draw the people together and interest them generally. Every man, doubtless, who takes a premium, pays its full value—often much more—but the premium is not a "quid pro quo," but a testimonial of what can be effected by trying.

The object of the Society is not to pay every man for the outlay upon a horse, mule, cow pig or the brain work or observation spent upon an essay, but by exciting emulation to induce people to improve upon what they have, to test the merits of different modes of culture, of varieties of soil, adaptability to produce grains, grasses, &c., decide upon the improved breeds of animals, by comparison; and although many sensible, hard-headed people may think and cry, Humbug! say what they please, the dullest intellect cannot help see that in this "progressive age," humbug is the mainspring of success in every enterprise, from the making of President to the fattening of a pig.

R. J. GAGE,  
See'y S. A. S.

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#### "Desperate Cases Require Desperate Remedies."

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"It is better to lop off a limb than lose the whole body," hence we would remark to our friend, the writer of the following article, that we have been compelled to use harsher remedies of late than were by any means agreeable to ourselves, and less so we presume to our patients—we trust however that less caustic applications will in future be necessary, as the disease seems to be rapidly yielding. But should we find it necessary to apply a blister or two more, we don't know but we would do well to call on our friend for assistance,

as from the specimen given us below, we should have strong faith in his skill.

On the subject of giving up our post as "the helm of the old ship," we suspect our friend is somewhat disposed to flatter, or has more faith in us than we have in ourself. It is true we have "weathered through the storm," but it was more owing to our *federation* and *perseverance* against a current that others might have yielded to, than to any superior ability in us to manage the craft. And now that we have a clear sky and comparatively a smooth sea, we sad'y regret abandoning our beloved companions, who have stuck to us through sun-shine and storm, many of them for seven long years, affording us their aid and comfort with a most liberal and cheerful hand. But we are wearing out in the service, and having other business demanding our constant supervision, of much more importance, peculiarly, we feel strongly inclined to retire. If, however, our subscription list can be run up to the paying point, as proposed by our friend Broome-sedge in the last No., having now the offer of more aid than heretofore, we may be induced to hold on.—  
ED. F. & P.

MR. EDITOR:—Really "you are getting no better fast." The last clause of the editorial in your April number, has the strongest possible taste of the true Cayenne, and no mistake. Pepper Sauce is but milk and water to it. How any man with a soul bigger than an oyster's, can stand the relish of it, is beyond my comprehension. From my boyhood up I have been taught that a close attention to the return of small favors—particularly those of a pecuniary character—was one of the most distinguishing marks of a true gentleman; and that a debt of honor, and obligation resting on the word spoken alone, and which involved no danger of a visitation from the Sheriff, was of all others most binding. Now upon both these counts you have your delinquents *dead*.

But, my dear Major, for the honor of our State and the cause, let me beg you to postpone that *Black List* as long as possible. In the meantime give them an occasional sprinkle from your Pepper Box, and I shall still hope—almost against hope, it is true—that they will wake up in time to prevent the necessity of your exposing their defalcations. A task which, I am well aware, you would be most happy to escape from.

You have most widely mistaken me in supposing that I intended to complain in the least degree, of the spicy character of your strictures upon defaulters. I do assure you that I think them not a whit more pungent than the subject demands; and moreover, that they emit a sparkle which forms an agreeable contrast with the usual monotony of an agricultural journal.

It is a crying shame, a deep reproach to our class and calling, that the only journal peculiarly devoted to our cause, should be driven to such invidious measures to secure even a precarious and inadequate support. It fixes upon us a stigma, and brands us with a reproach that all the fancy Fairs of Brahmin Bulls, Cashmere Goats, Hong Kong Geese and Fan-tailed Pigeons, can not remove, and blots our escutcheon with so foul a stain, that all the glitter of all the cups, pitches, platters, setts and spoons cannot hide from the eye of the passer-by.

You have cut them on the raw, Major. Now just another sprinkle of the *raal ginewine sarce*, and the thing is done. If not, give them soot as soon as you can rake up a good dose from the kitchen chimney—it will take a good pile to dust them all as they deserve.

But, my dear sir, there is an editorial in the April number, that I do not relish at all, at all. What! sell out the old Farmer and Planter, stock, lock, and barrel? that is the saddest word of all. Just as we have found out how stont the old ship is—having passed the breakers and weathered the storm. I can not say after all, however, that we have any reason to cast blame upon our gallant old Commander, who has so long braved the battle and the breeze in our behalf, should he, after the danger is passed, ask for his discharge. For we know full well that he has made sacrifices such as few amongst us would incur, and that the compensation awarded him, has been of the scantiest. I have sad forebodings, however, of the result of his quitting the helm. The good ship will surely sink, I fear, when his guiding hand is withdrawn.

Metaphor aside, Major; the experience of the past justifies the apprehension, I think, that should you retire, and the Farmer and Planter cease to exist, agricultural journalism in South Carolina, will expire with it. Still, I can not find it in my heart to blame you for wishing to quit so thankless and unprofitable a calling, much as I should regret your doing so, both on my own account and that of the cause of agricultural improvement in our State.

J.

April 11, 1857.

*Convulsions in Children.*—Dr. H. G. Davis says: "In a few cases of convulsions in children, when I have arrived so late as to find the little patient, to appearance, in articulo mortis, and feeling that whatever was done must be done instantly, I have applied to the chest a napkin wet in quite boiling hot water. It was applied for a second, perhaps then after be-

ing raised for two or three seconds the application repeated, thus just falling short of injuring the skin. The effect was in every instance to cause the child to take a full inspiration somewhat like a sigh, the pulse immediately returning when it had been entirely lost at the wrist."

### Sugar Mills.

We publish the following communication from a respected subscriber, in order to draw out information on the subject of Sugar Mills. Who can give it? We recently wrote to Mr. Glaze, of Columbia, enquiring whether or not he was preparing to meet the probable demand for mills of a cheap pattern. Mr. G. says: "As to the Sugar Mills, we are getting up 3 patterns. One will cost, all complete, \$75; one, \$125; and the large size, \$160. I think of putting up a small size, with rollers of 6 or 8 inches, which will do for small planters, at about \$40. I will write you again on this subject." Mr. Glaze further says, "Enclosed I send you a letter received from Philadelphia, and will send you a sample of the sugar made from the syrup."

The letter enclosed, with a sample of sugar made from the "Sorgum," was recently received by Mr. G., from Hedges, Mockbee, & Co., of Philadelphia, who are manufacturing both Mills and Boilers for sugar making. We extract from their letter, the following:

"We are pleased to inform you that there is no longer any doubt in regard to making sugar from this cane, as by the enclosed small sample you will see a fine specimen made by Leonard Wray, Esq., who has just arrived from Europe with samples also of the purest alcohol, which, we regret, we are unable to forward you, but Mr. W. will soon visit Ex-Governor Hammond, of your State, when you will probably hear more about it. We shall be in Florida at the earliest date that the cane is ready for manufacture, and demonstrate fully the success of our machinery in the manufacture of sugar."

"We have made arrangements with Mr. Wray, by which we are authorized to dispose of his process for the proper working of the juice of the Sorgum into sugar, which, we have no doubt whatever, will result in a lasting benefit to our country."

We have not yet received the sample of sugar promised us by Mr. Glaze.

MR. EDITOR:—The article headed "A Dun," has just caught my eye, and I respond to your call for help cheerfully, and hope that you will find all of your subscribers more prompt than I have been, though I am but a new subscriber. Enclosed I send you two dollars (\$2), to pay for two years subscription.\*

\* You have overdone the thing one year, friend "Job."—Ed.

I have planted one acre of Sonora or Chinese Sugar Millet, and have some idea of putting up a set of cast iron Sugar Rollers, but I have been so often humbugged in the agricultural world, that I am rather afraid to venture it. I think that I saw somewhere that a Mr. Glaze, of Columbia, intended to manufacture them; if so, it is time for him to get at it. To advertise their dimensions, thickness of shell, weight and power per lb. also the freight to Charleston.

Respectfully, yours, JOB.

*New use for Cotton.*--A few months since we directed attention to this subject, stating that some useful substitute for leather would be a most valuable invention to the community, owing to its scarcity and increasing price. We notice in a late European exchange that prepared moleskin (thick cotton twill, with a nap) has been substituted to a large extent in France for calf-skin leather in the upper part of shoes, and this has arrested a further advance in the price of leather in that country. In our own markets, the price of leather has still now kept steadily increasing. The principal cause of this, we are told, has been a drain upon hides from our own markets to those of France, Germany, and England. At present, the tides appear to begin to ebb as regards the price of sole leather, but not of fine calf-skins employed for the uppers of shoes; nor is it to be expected that the price will fall, as the demand for it is greater than the supply. We regret this, for the finer kinds of it have almost ceased to be employed in the manufacture of ladies' and children's gaiters, buskins, &c. Sheep-skin leather, half tanned, thin as wrapping paper and almost as tender, has been used as a substitute for it, while coarse paper, of a most wretched description, is employed for inner sole.

The uppers of foot clothing made of such material cannot withstand the action of water; rain penetrates nearly as freely as blotting paper, and to use a common but appropriate term, "they have no wear in them." Some substitute for such material would be of great importance for the cheap shoes of children and youth, especially girls.

The employment of strong moleskin for this purpose, as has been done in France, would be an improvement, and we therefore suggest its use; it is cheap, light, and would prove more durable, we believe, than sheep-skin leather.

[*Scientific American.*]

#### Trafficking with Negroes.

The following communication is received just at a time, owing to local circumstances, we feel strongly inclined to put a stop to a prevailing practice that is having a bad effect on our slaves. Custom, we know, has done much towards tolerating the practice of buying from slaves, but we think it high time to put a stop to the custom. We never could see any more propriety in one man buying poultry, eggs, &c., from a negro, than

in another buying meat, corn or other products not usually made by the slave. The latter practice is much less frequent than the former; and as the frogs said to the boys who were pelting them with stones, so might those who raise towels, &c., say to such as purchase them from negroes: "It may be fun to you boys, but it is death to us frogs!"—ED.

MR. EDITOR:—I want a word with slave-holders—humane and kind-hearted slave-holders—men whose best exertions are often called into requisition for the benefit and welfare of their negroes. You, my fellow citizens, are but too well aware of the fact, that discipline in your white family is of vast importance, and in fact indispensable. It is also the case in our schools, our colleges, our army, and our navy. With what studious care and vigilance do our professors watch the approach of a dram-seller in their vicinity—and why laws forbidding the same, keeping it at a safe distance? This you say is commendable, as I would not allow my son an opportunity of an education were a looser discipline thrown around him. Now if this care is necessary to keep your son in his proper place, how much more necessary is it, that your ignorant, uneducated slave be shielded and restrained. And how do you expect to appear guiltless, while you suffer his adversary in your midst and squint his destructive traffic.

I fear, gentlemen, that Mrs. Stowe insidiously, and unawares to yourselves, and shopkeepers more openly, and those who trade for stolen goods, are gradually but surely doing a work upon your interests, especially upon your minds, that you will sorely lament. Let me call your attention to the liberties now allowed to negroes. Who thinks it necessary to ask one for a ticket or a permit to trade? Just give a fellow some chickens, a stolen turkey, or a bushel of corn, and let him pace the streets, and see how many and how respectable are the purchasers. This I adduce as evidence of a loose rein, yes, an uncurbed privilege. Constant usage for some time has rendered it common, and seemingly justifiable, but this will lead to ruin if not arrested. Let a white man go to town and offer a few bushels of potatoes for sale, and he is not in his proper sphere, he is told Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ negroes bring them here every day at such and such a price. I am not talking of this matter as a pecuniary consideration, but alone to show the wide-spread ruin that await us as slave holders, unless this thing is checked and our negroes brought to chalk a line, and the only means available is, in our prompt action with the offending. If you will not inflict upon them the punishment provided by our laws, then inflict that one of *caste* and *disgrace*. Make him feel his inferiority, and feel it, too, in his *pocket*, the surest road to the heart of such offenders; better this than the ruin that await you in your present course.

Also turn over a new leaf with your overseer, exact a greater degree of vigilance, and use the same yourself, and its effects will most certainly prove wholesome and salutary. It is your duty. It is indispensable for the welfare of all concerned. The cry of abuse and sin of slavery

has been so often rung in our ears by our enemies, that we seem to believe it true, and our hesitation and indisposition to enforce a discipline, mild but firm, grows upon us daily, and negroes who, under a more rigid and much happier course of discipline, would remain always happy and tractable, become impudent and ungovernable.

Mr. Editor, I now draw this article to a close, but I can not do so without asking indulgence for its inelegant composition, and especially do I solicit a careful perusal of the same from all concerned.

A CITIZEN.



## The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

VOL. VIII, NO. 6, : : : : June, 1857.

### The Law of Newspapers.

We would call the especial attention of subscribers who intend discontinuing their paper without paying up *all arrears*, to the following:

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.
2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers the publisher can continue to send them until all arrears are paid.
3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they settle their bill, and order the papers discontinued.
4. If any subscriber removes to another place without informing the publisher, and their paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
5. The court has decided that refusing to take a newspaper from the office, or removing and leaving it uncultivated, is *prima facie* evidence of an intentional fraud.

### Weeds Continued---Cow Pea.

We finished our last article on weeds by recommending the Cow-pea as a fallow crop, to get rid of them. This opinion is based on what we attempted to shew is the practice of England and other countries, and also of the grass regions of our own country. We might go on and shew the superior condition of the agriculture of those countries to our own, but this we presume will be universally admitted, and would be a digression from the subject. We contend, however, the superior productiveness of their lands, must be attributed to their better system of agriculture, and not to the natural fertility of the soil. The South had a noble inheritance—a rich patrimony bequeathed to

her, and if it had been husbanded with care, might have remained for generations and ages, a mine of inexhaustible wealth to her children. But we have, like the prodigal son, wasted it, if not in "riotous living," in worse—in the most suicidal and destructive system of agriculture that was ever practised by any civilized people on the face of the earth. We are not entitled to the appellation of *cultivators*, but of destroyers of the earth. The finest lands of the South have already in less than a century, some of them in less than a half century, fallen a victim to our ruthless ravages—and still the tide of destruction is onward. The melancholy picture of some portions of the South, with the inhabitants fleeing from the destruction they themselves created, is too true, and forces itself on us with pain and mortification in almost every article we prepare for our press. We wish we could put a stop to it—we wish we could arrest this irresistible, widespread tide of destruction—we wish we could induce our countrymen to stop this downward course of ruin before it be too late. We are all sensible of it—the evil stares us in the face—our lands are constantly wearing out, and we do nothing or next to nothing, to prevent the evil or to reclaim them. We attempt to make up in quantity what our lands fail in productiveness, when it is obvious the labor bestowed on half the quantity well manured and well cultivated, would produce more than the whole. This simple proposition, "that the half will produce more than the whole," is as true as any algebraic solution, and yet how few among us practice it. In fact the ultimatum of the earth's productions, has never yet been reached. It is always in good seasons, in proportion to the labor and manure applied in the preparation and cultivation of the land. But we must stop this digression, and come back to the subject under consideration.

We believe the *Cow-pea* is destined, if any thing can to renovate the South. We need not quote the oft repeated opinion that it is the "clover of the South."—If at all, it is yet to be, for it has failed to perform for us what the Clover has done for the North. It is certainly more indigenous and better adapted to our climate, and suits better the impoverished condition of our soil. For though it nor any other plant will grow as well on poor as on rich land, it will grow with us better than clover, which requires rich land and lime in the soil.

The highest eulogy we ever heard on the cow-pea, was from Mr. E. Ruffin of Virginia, while Agricultural Surveyor of our State. He was called on to make an address before the Pendleton Farmers' Society, the subject of which was principally the cow-pea, which he recommended should be used as a preparatory crop for wheat, the crop to be given to the land, and said if the farmers of Virginia had such a plant, it would add 15 per cent to the value of their lands. This opinion, coming from such high authority—one who has contributed more to the improvement of Agriculture in Virginia than any other man, is certainly a high compliment. He too was familiar with the clover culture, for he was from a clover region. We refer to this opinion as an evidence of the high value and appreci-

ation of the cow-pea by a foreigner, in contrast to the low estimate and secondary importance placed on it at the South. We admit that most of our farmers are in the habit of planting the pea principally among their corn, but it is very questionable whether both these crops are not a mutual injury to each other.—The pea if planted too late, is overshadowed by the corn, and the corn, if the pea is planted at the same time, is usually overrun by them, and the substance which ought to go to the corn is taken up by the pea. We have seen both these results. We have in very rich land seen the pea cover the whole face of the earth, and twine around the corn like an Anaconda its victim. Usually, however, among corn it is a scanty crop, and affords only a slight gleanings to our stock in the fall of the year. But the main question still recurs, how is the pea to perform the office of the clover to the South? We answer by making use of the pea as the clover is used, *as a fallow crop to be given to the land, and as a cleansing crop to destroy weeds.* If it can be made a substitute for the weeds that now infect our lands, we think we shall have accomplished very much to the resuscitation of Southern agriculture. For I think it will be generally admitted, it will return more to the land than weeds. On this point we must take issue with our friend "Laurens." We regard weeds as great exhausters—they are generally fibrous rooted plants that feed principally on the surface soil, while the pea is a tap-rooted plant which draws its principal nourishment from the sub-soil, and by its broad leaf from the atmosphere. We seldom see it affected by drought. Its nourishing qualities to animals is a proof it contains nourishment for the land. Experience and observation in the absence of chemical analysis will prove this fact. We always see the land improved by the decomposition of the pea-vine. Its nutritive qualities as a hay is also well attested by observation. The opinion is generally entertained that it is fully equal to clover and timothy, when the vine is cured in a succulent condition. The proper time for this operation is when the vine begins to form the young pea—for we cannot make seed and hay out of the same plant. This has been a great mistake among our farmers, to let the vine ripen their seed before it is cut for hay. It then forms sticks instead of a soft and tender hay—the same principle applies to all plants in curing them into hay. They must be cut while in a succulent condition. But this is another digression.

We want to substitute the pea crop for weeds, and as a fallow crop to be given to the land. Upon this we base our theory for the improvement of Southern agriculture. We want the pea to do for the South what the clover has done for the North. Can it be done brother farmers? Let it be tried by all who have confidence in the theory. There is much inducement to try the experiment—the clover regions of the North are in a most prosperous condition, and the Southern section—the cotton region—the most depressed. I allude to the depreciation in production of our lands. There must be a radical cause for this great difference. The clover forms an important part in their rotation of crops, and is the principal means of keeping up their

lands in good heart. It occupies the land too years, penetrating into the lower strata of the soil by means of its long tap-root, affording rest to recruit its exhausted energies and restoring the pabulum which has been drawn from it, by the decomposition of the roots, and leaves, and stems, and above all by cleansing the land from the pollution of weeds.

Who that has ever seen a field, or even a patch, of clover, but has been attracted by the rich luxuriance of the plant. Its crowning excellence, however, is to keep the land in good condition and as a preparatory crop for wheat. On this point we must quote another remark of Mr. Ruffin, "that no farmer calculated on making more than half a crop of wheat on corn land." That corn is an imperfect fallow or cleansing crop, our experience and observation, amply testify. Weeds and grasses spring up after it is laid by and ripen their seeds. In this foul condition, with the soil compacted by rains and infested with weeds and grasses, it is a poor apology for a fallow crop for wheat. Make the pea the fallow crop. With the vine given to the land as the clover is done, we believe in a few years with this culture, the productions of our land would be doubled.

But in order to effect a complete renovation of our worn out lands, we must give the pea a fair chance—at all events an equal chance with clover. That being a biennial plant, occupying the land two years, and the pea annual, we must give two crops of peas to the land to be equal with a crop of clover. And here we hope our readers will excuse us for going somewhat into detail. In the first place, we advise to begin the first pea crop on our oat and wheat land immediately after harvest or as soon as the grain is removed. There will be time enough to mature a pea crop of vines. We advise to begin in our stubble fields, because it is here the weeds spring up in millions, and remain unmolested till they ripen their seed and perpetuate the evils. We propose to substitute the pea in place of the weed. By plowing the land after harvest, we destroy the weed while in an infant condition, just as it comes up and before it becomes a tree "on which the birds of the air come and lodge on the branches thereof." After having succeeded in getting a crop of pea vines on our stubble land, the next operation is to turn them in. This cannot be done by small plows or by a single horse.—When the vine is rank, it will be a very difficult operation on account of their tangling the plow and preventing it from going deep enough to turn them in. A clover-lay is never attempted by less than two good horses, and we suppose in very stiff land, four would do the work more effectually. As to the proper season for turning in the pea vine, we would say after the vine had arrived at full maturity and had reached the woody—fibrous stage—for vegetable sub-

stances to operate as a manure should have passed the succulent state when it is fit for hay.—Green vegetable matter applied to the earth, would be almost as evanescent as a shower of rain, and would impart no permanent fertility to the soil. After the pea fallow is secured, we would further propose the land should be sown in rye as a winter crop to occupy the land until next spring, when it will be time to apply the second pea crop, say about the middle of May, or the first of June, at which time the rye crop should be given to the land, and followed immediately by the second pea crop. The advantage of this mode, is, in giving two crops to the land in one year; and we have no hesitation in believing that any land not entirely worn out, would soon recover so as to make remunerating crops under this system. In this way, if followed up without intermission, and by means of the thorough-deep plowing recommended and the cleansing effect of the fallow crops, we believe the weeds would be entirely extirpated from our fields. But the whole success of the operation depends on the plowing. Plowing is of itself a great fertilizer, and there can be no perfect farming without perfect plowing. And here we must be permitted to institute a comparison between Southern and Northern, or European plowing. An English farmer would laugh at the idea of breaking up land with a single horse, and if they were to see our small mules engaged in that operation, they would not form a very favorable opinion of Southern farming, or of the intelligence of those who conduct it. Why sir, we have yet to learn our A B C in plowing. We took our first lesson about a year ago, on a Railroad contract under the directions of a Northern manager, who induced us to import from Messrs. Allen of New York, a large sized Eagle plow, to which he hitched six mules, and succeeded in excavating a furrow about 12 inches deep, with a furrow slice about the same in width. I had never seen plowing done before. But it may be said this was Railroad plowing not applicable to farm operations. We are not so sure of it. But one thing we are well assured of—that our Southern plowing does not deserve the name of plowing. It is merely scratching the surface a few inches deep, and putting it in a good condition to be washed away by the first hard rain, or for the sun to exhale all the moisture from the land in times of drought. We believe our mode of plowing has been the bane of Southern agriculture. It has ruined almost the whole South. The cream of our best lands have been washed away, and left nothing but the

*skeleton* of what was once a beautiful country clothed in those rich habiliments which a virgin soil and a fine climate give to her offspring. We must plow deeper if we desire to save our lands from utter ruin. We must go down to a new strata not yet reached by the plow or the roots of plants we cultivate. This can be done by the subsoil plow without mixing the clay too much with the surface soil. We have been led into this digression in favor of deep plowing in order to conduct and carry on a systematic warfare against weeds. Superficial plowing won't do to destroy them. It must be deep and thorough, not only for the purpose of deepening the soil and enlarging the pasturage for the roots of plants and imbibing atmospheric manure—but to bury the seed of weeds so that they can never see the light of the sun. I wish they were all consigned to the nether regions.—But we must close this already too long article—yet we do not desire, nor intend to close the discussion. We declare our eternal hostility to weeds, and shall keep up our warfare until they are exterminated from our lands.

#### Broomisedge.

But we cannot take leave of the subject without paying our respects to our friend "BROOMSEDGE." He closes his remarks in favor of weeds in a perfect rhapsody, and considers them as a God-send to recruit our exhausted lands, and not as those vile pests and vampires which we consider them. To speak of following nature in farming is mere sound! for if we were to imitate nature, we would not cultivate land at all. She is often improved and aided by art, and means are necessary for removing a host of enemies which prevent her from being fertile and productive. Nature if left to herself produces her progeny in swarms and millions—more than she can yield milk from her bosom to support. A single plant will yield more than one thousand seed, and if all were to vegetate would produce a famine in the land or rear a feeble, pygmy progeny. No, this provision in nature, "to increase and multiply," will not do for farm operations, for raising a healthy, vigorous progeny. She has to be entailed in her extravagance of production.—She has to be brought down to the right number she can rear, or else all her children will be dwarfs and not full grown men and women.

Now we apply this principle of nature to the weed culture. They swarm in millions and are obliged to be a heavy draught upon the land. The land is over-taxed—over-cropped. Nature cannot sustain the immense progeny she produ-

ces. They are a feeble stunted growth—the pabulum which ought to go to the support of the crop is taken up by them. They starve the land and the crop and themselves—the whole proces is a starving one. They have inflicted this curse on the only country where they are tolerated. Southern agriculture does not support itself—our lands have been so much exhausted by weeds and bad culture, that many sections are dependant for necessaries on foreign supply. Southern rotation of crops, viz: corn and wheat or oats, or perennial cotton (we do not mean the plant, but the crop), or until the land is exhausted or washed away, is the history of Southern agriculture from the first settlement of our country. Our lands have been exhausted by continued tillage—without rest—without manure, and to add to and increase the evil, to suffer weeds to draw from the exhausted soil its last remnant of vitality.

We call on our opponents to point to the beneficial results of weed culture at the South, where alone they are tolerated. Will they point to the impoverished condition of our lands—to the *worn out*—“*turned out*” old fields and gullied territory, all of which have raised weeds in abundance—in fact have been worn out in the service, until they have given way to the gentleman’s namesake—that badge of sterility, which, like the Turkey-Buzzard, pourees on the dead carcass which a foul and ruinous culture has produced, etc yet the expiring agony is o’er—or will they institute a comparison with the clover regions of the North and West, with the impoverished lands of the South—the one rioting in luxuriance, raising the finest horses, mules cattle and hogs, to supply the market of the South. Or, if not satisfied with this comparison, will they be willing to refer to the agriculture of other countries.—But we are not permitted by our friend “BROOM-SEDGE,” to refer to China or to Great Britain, on account of their crowded population and cheap labor. The very fact that the agriculture of China supports half the population of the globe, is a proof of the perfection they have arrived at in the culture of the earth. They from necessity are compelled to husband all their resources and to carry their productions to the highest ultimatum. They cannot spare a foot of land for weeds or any other unprofitable plant—they have so many mouths to fill, they cannot afford to keep any useless animals—the horse that greatest consumer of the earth’s productions is not known. Every kind of labor is performed by human beings—all burdens are carried on their backs—the trav-

elling and pleasure carriages, the Sedan, are drawn by them or carried on their shoulders.

And great Britain, too, is not to be held up to us as an example in agricultural improvement, because of the difference in their climate—the tenure by which their lands are held, and the difference in their crops. The very fact that the “air is as full of water as a wet sponge,” is conducive to the growth of weeds and the necessity of their constant warfare against them. Hence their systems of naked fallow and of fallow crops, before adverted to, in order to get rid of them. Their fallow crops too, are summer instead of winter crops, as our friend supposes, as for instance the turnip, the beet, the horse-bean, and above all the Irish potato, which forms the principal support to the poorer classes. All these are summer crops and receive the principal manure and culture to cleanse the land and prepare it for wheat and other small grains. The fact also, that the real estate is owned by the landed aristocracy, is the principal cause why their agriculture has made such rapid strides in improvement. They have the means and the liberality, and are also prompted by self interest to spend large sums of money in improving their estates. Mr Colman of Massachusetts, says, in his Agricultural tour through England, that the productions have nearly doubled in the last one-fourth of a century—that the average crop of wheat has been increased from 16 to 28 bushels, the maximum production being 90 bushels. He attributes this great increase, to the large sums of money expended by the land proprietors in under-ground draining and sub-soil plowing. The rents on such lands have been doubled and in some instances quadrupled. Such examples are worthy of our imitation, and we should not suffer our pride and republican prejudices to prevent us following them because of the difference in our institutions. England is our father-land—from her we have inherited our language, our literature, and our laws as far as applicable to our situation and circumstances. Her discoveries in science, her improvement in the mechanic arts can all be applied and appropriated by us. And shall it be said that we should not profit by her improvements in agriculture because our institutions are different, or because the crops we cultivate, or our climate are not alike? We hope not. The principles of agriculture are the same every where. Science knows no country—it embraces the whole world, and whatever is calculated to advance the prosperity and happiness of one people should be adopted by another, should it suit their circum-

stances. To close these remarks, we will copy from an English work, a paragraph on the subject under discussion:

"The first thing that is absolutely necessary in farming land well, is to lay it *clean* and *dry*. When land is foul, producing weeds, it is impossible artificial plants, such as corn (wheat) or grass can thrive. The ground is bound up, and the food, which should go to the support of the plants sown by the husbandman, is exhausted by those natural inhabitants of the soil.—The crops, therefore, are scanty, being stunted in their growth and inferior in their quality.—Every good farmer will, therefore, use his earnest efforts to make his land *clean*. This he will do by complete summer fallows, or by fallow crops adapted to the different soils he cultivates; and having once accomplished his purpose, he will studiously endeavor to preserve it in the same workmanlike order." And again:

"To keep his land clean, will always be a principal object with every good farmer, for if this be neglected, in place of producing rich crops of wheat or grass, the ground will be exhausted by *crops of weeds*. When land is foul, every operation of husbandry must be proportionally non-effective, and even the manures applied, will in a great measure be lost."

We conclude therefore, and we think the inference is irresistible, and the argument unanswerable, if weeds be so inimical in the agriculture of Great Britain where the productions are on an average four times greater than ours, and where the land is kept rich by manures and good culture from generation to generation that they must be hurtful in the impoverished condition of our lands.

#### Notice to Subscribers.

Our subscribers at *Hamburg* and *Augusta* in arrears, will please call on A. M. Benson, our Agent in Hamburg, and settle their accounts.

*Edgefield C. H.*—Subscribers in arrears will find in the hands of A. Ramsey, Esq. P. M. a statement of the amount due by each for the Farmer and Planter, and will please pay to him.

*Cassville, Ga.*—Subscribers will please pay to H. W. Cobb, to whom we have sent a statement of accounts due.

*Camden, S. C.*—Our friends in Camden, will shortly find in the hands of all accounts due at that office for our paper, will they please attend to this notice.

*Kingstree, S. C.*—Subscribers in arrears at Kingstree, will find their accounts in the hands of the Post Master, to whom they will please make payments.

We shall make out and forward our accounts to ma-

ny other offices, as our time will permit. In the mean time we will inform our subscribers generally, that *all* Post Masters are authorized to act as Agents in receiving and forwarding payments for the Farmer and Planter. Attention to this notice will oblige and save us much labor in making out accounts. If you do not know exactly how much you owe, be sure and pay enough, and if too much, the excess will stand to your credit, or you may send the names of new subscribers to the amount if preferable.

#### The Broomsedge Proposition.—First Gun.

*Maybinton* takes the field. A highly esteemed friend writes us as follows: Who will follow his good example? We do think the names of all such noble hearted men should be promptly given to the public. They shall not be lost however, but shall stand *at the head* of our anticipated long list of worthies and patriots. Who will step forward to sustain the lamentably waning agricultural spirit of our beloved State? All such names shall appear in a list which we intend hereafter to publish. Our friend writes us as follows:

"As soon as I saw Broomisedge's proposition for each old subscriber to send (5) five new ones, I set about the work, and now enclose five dollars for five copies of the Farmer and Planter to be sent as follows" which have been sent as directed with a thousand thanks to Broomisedge, the highest occupant of our column for the restoration of exhausted soils, and to "Spartograss," the first available esculent after the frosts of winter.

#### The Weather.

Yes, the weather, and *such* weather is a caution to the oldest inhabitant. With unusually bad stands of corn, cotton and every thing else, and the most gloomy prospects ahead, we have on the mornings of the 20th, and 21st, frost sufficient to kill peas just up, and of course materially injure the young cotton plant. If half crops of cotton are made in our State, we shall be agreeably surprised.

#### Bees.

An old subscriber writes as follows: "Can't you draw out some of your Correspondents on the management and cultivation of bees? I would like to see something on that subject with the rest of the good things in the Farmer and Planter. In answer to which we would remark that writers on bee culture are scarce in the South. We hope however, that the above enquiry will catch the eye of some one competent to interest our Correspondent. In the mean time we can refer him to the advertisement of Mr. Mahan, which will be found in its proper place in this number, and also to the best work on the subject that we have anywhere met with. See our remarks on L. L. Langstroth's treatise on the hive and honey bee, May No., page 116.

**The North East Georgian**  
Is another candidate for favor in the upper regions,

How friend PATROS may hold out, we can't say, but his present appearance is most credible and prepossessing, we give him the right hand of fellowship, and admit him into the fold of the fraternity with pleasure.

#### Acknowledgements.

Some friend has sent us the address of the Hon. B. F. Perry, before the South Carolina Institute, at the Annual Fair, November, 5th, 1857, with Exhibitors Catalogue and Report of the Committee on Premiums, for which our thanks are truly tendered. We have not had time to read Col. P's address, but we doubt not it is able and appropriate.

#### The Walhalla Banner.

We thank our friends the Editors and Proprietors for the first number of the Banner, which is a handsome sheet, filled to overflowing with good matter — We wish the Banner success, believing if the good people of Pickens will do their duty, there is room enough for friend Bob's Courier and the Banner too, with now and then a little help to the Farmer and Planter.

#### Jumping Sheep.

Maj. C. W.—We have written you on the subject of your enquiry below, which we give for the consideration and solution of others. I know that "hamstringing," or dividing the tendons just above the heels of the hind feet, *either*, will prevent jumping a fence, but we are not sure it would not prove injurious to a ram in performance of his legitimate duties.

"I procured through a friend a Marino Ram, which he recommended highly, but I can't say he is very beautiful. I keep good fences, he jumps them at pleasure. Can you tell me how to prevent it?"

E, another much esteemed friend and subscriber, who has just taken hold of the plow handles (may he never look back), makes the following appeal to our correspondent or subscriber. Who will give him light?— We have advantageously used for many years a corn and cob mill (the old cast "bark mill") and for which we have had inflicted on us the taunts of some of our troublous neighbors, but we have had no experience with either of the mills named. It is said they grind meal fine enough to feed to stock, of this, however, we have our doubts, we have never seen any mill that would do it, except a combination of the crusher and mill stones. We never feed to *any* stock meal that has not passed through the stones of a common corn mill after having first been crushed by our corn and cob mill. We are not in favor of feeding cob meal that has not been reduced to the fineness of our bread meal.

MR. EDITOR:—Will some of your correspondents or subscribers oblige a young farmer by giving him their experience with the various corn and cob mills now before the public?

We have seen several laudatory accounts in

the newspapers of the "young America," little giant," and "magic," but what we want, is the experience of some practical man, who has tested them. Are they durable? will they grind the corn and cob sufficiently fine for feeding?— Such a mill would be a *desideratum* to every farmer who feeds more than one horse.

Perhaps Mr Editor you can give the information desired. No mans opinions would stand higher in *one* estimation. E.

#### Book-Farming—Weeds, &c.

Our esteemed friend, the writer of the following, probably did not expect it to be published, we, therefore give initials only. We know many such neighborhoods as I. M. lives in, not a hundred miles from us. Such men as he describes, are not hard to find in our State, who will not only refuse to subscribe for an agricultural paper themselves, but, dog in the manger like, would prevent every other man doing so if in their power. Ignorant themselves they desire to keep all others so around them. "Ignorance is bliss," and "misery loves company." Too wise in their own conceit to be taught by you, friend M., or any body else. Just as well let them alone. But what a striking difference there is between such wiseacres and the writer of the letter now lying before us, who says, after giving us the name of a new subscriber: "Accept of my compliments for the pleasure of reading your valuable journal, for, Sir, I find I am twice the planter now that I was when I first subscribed for it, and be assured that I never fail to send you a subscriber when I can." Here is an honest man, acknowledging his gratitude for the privilege of reading an agricultural paper, which privilege, nevertheless, he has punctually paid for. But he was not too wise to be taught, and rejoices in his advancement.

On the subject of weeds we would here remark to I. M., if we were to turn out a field to recover its lost fertility by nature's course, then we should not object to the growth of weeds, broomsedge, or old-field pine; not so however if we continue the field under a course of cultivation:

MR. EDITOR:—You will please find your one dollar enclosed. I have been too slow in this matter, but no apology will now make it better. Your independant bearing is pleasing. I have no fears that the Farmer and Planter will lower itself. I would like to respond to your call for subscribers, but I live in an *otherwise settlement*, where book stuff is held in great contempt, and I would ruin myself in the estimation of all the wise ones, if they even knew that I read anything to learn me how to plow, and such other matters as come before them in their agricultural operations. If I understand your position on the *weed subject*, I think that you are wrong—the mode that nature takes to restore herself is certainly the right one. When land is tired or disheartened, give it rest and

what is the course that nature resorts to, for reclaiming what is lost—weeds spring up.—But I confess that I never thought of saying a word upon this subject until after writing this. I will reserve forming an opinion until I hear more from you and your abettor and opponents.

I. M.

“Life Members.”

I merely take my pen to make a comment or two, upon your remarks on the “Address” of “A few Life Members” to the Executive Committee. I shall not pretend to speak for the Committee, but as a life member for myself. I never considered the Ex. Committee obliged to furnish me with an Agricultural Paper, or to allow me free access to the Fair Grounds during the Fair. I looked at it in this way exactly.

To be an annual member.....\$2.00.  
To be a Life-member the interest on \$25 \$1.75.  
Well now, I thought I'd get 25 cents premium for paying in advance—I'd put the Society on a reliable foundation, and make it able to do good—if it failed I'd get my money back—the principal at least—and if I die I shall have no use for it, and leave the investment for the good of the public. That is just the way I looked at it Maj., and all life memberships are pretty much such things. Now, sir, if every life member had set about getting ten or twenty paying subscribers to the Agriculturist, instead of setting himself down contented that he got a paper for nothing, the paper could have been kept up. But the Ex. Committee had no right to speculate in Agricultural newspapers, and very properly abandoned the enterprise, when it would not pay. Whenever it becomes necessary to furnish each life-member with a paper and a free ticket, the sooner his money is paid back the better for the Society. Ticket during the Fair, say \$2., paper \$1., = \$3; about 12 per cent on his \$25—pretty fair business for the lender, but death on the borrower, whose only hope for a dividend is when the whole concern die out.

ONE LIFE MEMBER.

Agriculture and Agricultural Education.

MR. EDITOR:—In the March number of the Farmer and Planter I see an address “To the Citizens of South Carolina,” on the subject of “an Agricultural College,” by Samuel R. Black, Esq. I highly commend the zeal of Mr Black in his efforts to promote this neglected but deserving cause.

Every citizen of South Carolina, especially every enlightened and intelligent farmer, will

readily admit the necessity of some such movement in behalf of agriculture; in order to arrest the evils which now exist, to secure that prosperous state of society of which agriculture is the basis, and to raise it to that position of honor and dignity which its intrinsic merit demands. Too little attention is paid to the improvement of the agricultural prosperity of the State. Our sons are instructed in literature and the sciences, but no practical application is made of that knowledge. They look straightway to the learned professions, deeming them alone worthy of a College-bred gentleman, whilst, in fact, the farmer's business is the very field for the practical application of the knowledge they have acquired.

Whilst I do not object to that which Mr. Black proposes to accomplish in itself (preferring any plan to the present inaction, and indifferent way of groping in ignorance, and ruining the fair face of our loved State), I would suggest what I deem a more practical and efficient method of obtaining the same result (the improvement of agriculture, which can only be accomplished by instructing, or diffusing useful knowledge among the farmers, and particularly by awakening an universal interest in the subject). Is it not strange that so little general interest is manifested in the general prosperity of the State, since, if the practice which has prevailed for the last few years, continues, she must suffer? How is it, that whilst our Legislature is cherishing with filial care almost every other department of life, by direct enactments and liberal donations, the immediate improvement of agriculture is so neglected? It is the very ground-work of a State's prosperity, and a people's happiness; it is the source of national wealth, and in its individual effect, it carries with it moral dignity, cherishing virtue, and ensuring physical health and enjoyment. The Legislature certainly could not refuse any assistance in that particular which the farmer should ask. The farmers themselves are at fault; they do not seek for, from the proper source, that assistance which they most need, that is, information. To obtain this information, and to awaken the interest which the course deserves, although Mr. Black's “College” might do much, yet I would prefer, and accordingly suggest, a simpler and cheaper way of attaining the same result. It is this, and has been practiced in some of the States with much success: “Let the Legislature expend part of the nine-tenths of the whole income of the State, which is paid by farmers, in placing proper instruction within their reach, in a way to be immediately

effective. We cannot wait to remedy the evil by educating the rising generation. We must inform the many what is doing by the few who are successful as agriculturists. Some farmers raise one hundred bushels of shelled corn to the acre, and some raise fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, but these are the one in ten thousand. Send competent persons among the ten thousand to tell them how the one manages his crop. Let any well educated, practical man be called from his plow, and employed solely in collecting and disseminating information, and instead of raising large crops himself he can cause a thousand others to do so. Every farmer should hear such a lecture at least once in each year, with the opportunity of propounding questions for his examination. Can any one doubt the success of such a plan? who can conceive the benefit which would flow from such an assemblage, on such a subject, and the individual instruction which each member would receive.—None are more apt to learn than the plain practical, unpretending farmer; each one would imbibe an absorbing interest in the subject, an honorable spirit of emulation and rivalry would be engendered; provisions would become abundant and cheap. Stocks improved, money easier, the State prosperous, and the farmer contented, happy, delighted.

#### A PLAIN FARMER.

*Newberry C. H., May, 13th, 1857.*

P. S. I rejoice to see you fight so nobly and well, in your exterminating war upon *noxious weeds*. Annihilate them all. I would not give one pea vine for a field of rag weeds. Your opponents need to hear an "agricultural lecture."

**Bitter Cream.**—It is generally known that cream becomes "bitter" from standing too long on the milk. This is often the case, but it not unfrequently becomes so when only allowed to remain twenty-four hours. The best preventative is to place the milk on the stove in a pan as soon as it is strained, and let it almost boil. This will not prevent the cream from rising. Milk thus partially scalded will keep much longer than otherwise. When the whole milk is used without skimming, it is always preferable to scald it when first received from the milkman. The only exception to this plan is when milk will not bear heating without curdling—a circumstance not infrequent, as those who buy city milk can abundantly testify.—*Times*.

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#### LIST OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED.

| NAMES.   | POST OFFICES. | STATE. | AM't. |
|--|---------------|--------|-------|
| H. W. Ravenel, Aiken,                                      | S. C.         | \$1.00 |       |
| Dr. N Sims, Cokesbury, (vol. 4.)                           | "             | 1.     |       |
| Wade H. Robertson,   | "             | 1.     |       |
| Samuel Graham,   | "             | 1.     |       |
| Albert Graham,   | "             | 1.     |       |
| Newton Graham,   | "             | 1.     |       |
| Wm Bookhardt, Poplar,                                      | "             | 1.     |       |
| Sam'l Bear, Orangeburg,                                    | "             | 1.     |       |
| Olney Harleston, Charleston,                               | "             | 1.     |       |
| S C Bishop,  | "             | 1.     |       |
| Dr R Ravenel, Black Oak, (vol. 3, 4,<br>5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) | "             | 8.     |       |
| P M Hamar, Bennettsville,                                  | "             | 1.     |       |
| Dr J R Sparkman, Georgetown,                               | "             | 1.     |       |
| Col Elias Earle, Chesterville (v. 5, 6)                    | "             | 2.     |       |
| Jas Miller, Cureton's Store,                               | "             | 1.     |       |
| Dr J P Miller, Poolsville, (v. 7)                          | "             | 1.     |       |
| Rev G W Huckabee, Loundsville,                             | "             | 1.     |       |
| J W Lee, Leesville, (vol. 7)                               | "             | 1.     |       |
| Capt J G Backstrom, Rich Hill,<br>Cross Roads, (v. 6, 7)   | "             | 2.     |       |
| Dr N Lewis, Cokesbury,                                     | "             | 2.     |       |
| R Underwood, Mariou,                                       | Ala           | 1.     |       |
| S W Bachman, Tilton,                                       | Ga            | 1.     |       |
| J W Jones, Montivideo, (v. 7, 8.)                          | "             | 2.     |       |
| Sam'l L Earle, Tyler,                                      | Texas         | 1.     |       |
| Jas F Black, Chuckey Bend,                                 | Tenn          | 1.     |       |
| Rev F C Lowry, McKinley, (vol 7)                           | Ala           | 2.     |       |
| G M Whetstone, Ellisville,                                 | Fla           | 1.     |       |
| J D Kinyon, Jacinto,                                       | Miss          | 1.     |       |
| John Gilky, Cuba,  | N. C.         | 2.     |       |
| W H Branch, Tallahassee, (to Jan '57)                      | Fla           | 5.     |       |
| V M Brown, Rayesville,                                     | Ga            | 1.     |       |
| Hon Jacob M Scudder, Hightower,<br>(v. 7, 8)               | "             | 2.     |       |
| Alex Robinson, Shufordville, (v. 5,<br>6, 7, 8, 9, 10)     | N. C.         | 6.     |       |
| Edmund Reese, Auburn,                                      | Ala           | 1.     |       |
| Jas D Willis, Centreville,                                 | (v. 6) Ga     | 1.     |       |
| Jno H Spartlin,  | "             | 1.     |       |
| More payments on hand, which shall appear in our next.     |               |        |       |